

## KAREN BENNETT

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### Regular Academic Positions:

Professor, Cornell University, 2014-present  
Associate Professor, Cornell University, 2007-2014  
Assistant Professor, Princeton University, 2000-2007  
Postdoctoral Fellow, RSSH, Australian National University, August 2001—August 2005.  
(taken up in 3 semesters and the summers)

### Visiting Positions:

Visiting Associate Professor (by invitation), New York University, Fall 2010

### Education:

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 2000  
M.A., Philosophy, University of Michigan, 1996  
B.A., Philosophy, *magna cum laude*, Oberlin College, 1993

### Areas of Specialization:

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind

### Work in Progress

Kinds of kinds.  
Precis of *Making Things Up* and replies to commentators for *PPR* symposium  
Precis of *Making Things Up* and replies to commentators for *Analysis Reviews* symposium  
From the laser to the taser: ontological parsimony and metaphysical foundationalism.  
Why I am not a dualist.

### Edited Volumes

Co-editor (with Dean Zimmerman), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volumes 6-11 thus far

### Books

2017. *Making Things Up*. Oxford University Press.

### Coverage and (known) upcoming coverage:

Author-meets-critics at the 2018 Eastern APA (critics Jason Turner and Maureen Donnelly)  
A symposium in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (commentators Ross Cameron, Shamik Dasgupta, Jessica Wilson)  
An issue of *Inquiry* devoted to the book (Paul Audi, Ricki Bliss, Gideon Rosen, Jonathan Schaffer, Jennifer Wang)

A symposium in *Analysis Reviews* (contributors unknown)  
Reviewed by Louis deRosset in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*)  
To be reviewed by Kris McDaniel in *The Journal of Philosophy*

#### Published and Forthcoming Papers

- Forthcoming. Actualism. *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*.
2017. Part and whole again. *Philosophical Issues* 21: 7-25.
2017. Conceptual analysis and its limits. *Philosophic Exchange* 46: 1-12.
2017. Language, ontology, and metaphysics. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 94: 466-473.
2015. "Perfectly understood, unproblematic, and certain": Lewis on mereology. In Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer, eds., *Blackwell Companion to David Lewis*, 250-261.
2015. There is no special problem with metaphysics. *Philosophical Studies* 173: 21-37.
2013. Having a part twice over. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 91: 83-103.
2011. By our bootstraps. *Philosophical Perspectives* 25: 27-41.
2011. Truthmaking and casemaking. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 83: 187-195.
2011. Construction area: no hard hat required. *Philosophical Studies* 154: 79-104.
2011. Koslicki on formal proper parts. *Analysis* 71: 286-290.
2009. What you don't know *can* hurt you. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79: 766-774.
2009. Composition, coincidence, and metaontology. In *Metametaphysics*, eds. David Chalmers, David Manley, and Ryan Wasserman, Oxford University Press.
2008. Exclusion again. In *Being Reduced: New Essays on Reduction, Explanation, Causation*, eds. J. Kallestrup and J. Hohwy, Oxford University Press.  
Reprinted (2011) in *Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem: A Reader*, edited by Torin Alter and Robert J. Howell, Oxford University Press.
2007. Mental causation. *Philosophy Compass* 2: 316-337.
2006. Proxy 'actualism'. *Philosophical Studies* 129:2, 263-294.
2005. Two axes of actualism. *The Philosophical Review* 114:3, 297-326.
2005. Supervenience. (With Brian McLaughlin). In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
2004. Global supervenience and dependence. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 68:3, 501-529.
2004. Spatio-temporal coincidence and the grounding problem. *Philosophical Studies* 118:3, 339-371.
2003. Why the exclusion problem seems intractable, and how, just maybe, to tract it. *Noûs* 37:3, 471-497.

#### Book Reviews

2005. Review of *Possible Worlds*, by John Divers. *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 83:2, 282-285.
2004. Review of *How Things Persist*, by Katherine Hawley. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 69:1, 230-233.
2003. Review of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Philosophy*, ed. James B. South. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (<http://ndpr.nd.edu/>).

### Upcoming Talks

SUNY Buffalo, April 2018  
Kant and Analytic Metaphysics, April 2018  
Boise State, Fall 2018

### Past Talks and Conference Presentations:

Rutgers University, March 2018  
University of Vermont, March 2018  
SWIP Analytic, September 2017  
Keynote speaker at Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, Australia, July 2017  
University of Michigan alumni conference, May 2017  
Purdue University Distinguished Woman Visitor, March 2017  
SOFIA conference (Mexico), January 2017  
Comments on Shumener, Metaphysics at the Ranch conference, January 2017  
The University of Nebraska, November 2016  
Public lecture at “Center for Philosophic Exchange” at SUNY Brockport, October 2016  
The Burman Lectures at the University of Umea (Sweden), October 2016  
University of Massachusetts, September 2016  
Keynote speaker at 2016 Geneva Graduate Conference (Switzerland), May 2016  
University of Illinois at Chicago, April 2016  
Kline Workshop at the University of Missouri: Ontological Commitment, March 2016  
The Morris Colloquium: Metaphysics and its History (University of Colorado), March 2016  
Central APA (invited symposium on fundamentality), March 2016  
University of Miami, February 2016  
Southern Methodist University, November 2015  
Brown University, September 2015  
Comments on Amijee’s “Contingentism and the PSR,” 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellingham Summer  
Philosophy Conference, August 2015.  
University of Georgia, February 2015  
University of Texas at Austin, November 2014  
University of Houston, November 2014  
Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics, October 2014  
Keynote Speaker for Creighton Club annual conference, September 2014  
Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy,  
Princeton University, August 2014  
Daylong presentation about relative fundamentality at Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers  
University, May 2014  
Comments on Rayo’s *The Construction of Logical Space*, at Logical and Modal Space  
Workshop, NYU, April 2014  
“There is no special problem with metaphysics”  
“World Philosophy Day” event at the University of Toronto  
Invited symposium, Pacific APA, April 2014  
41<sup>st</sup> annual Oberlin Colloquium, May 2014  
“Relative Fundamentality,” Tufts University, November 2013  
Chapters 1-5 of *Making Things Up*, Varieties of Metaphysical Priority workshop, University  
of Mainz, November 2013

“The Nonfundamental,” Bridging Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics conference,  
 University of Rochester, September 2013

“Fundamentality and What is Fundamental,” Big vs. Small Conference, University of  
 Hamburg, Germany, June 2013

Q&A session to conclude a reading group on my book ms, Oxford University, March 2013

“There is No Special Problem about the Methodology of Metaphysics,”  
 Notre Dame, March 2013  
 University of Michigan, Spring Colloquium on the Methodology of Metaphysics, March  
 2013

“Building Fundamentality”, Back at the Ranch Ontology Conference, January 2013

“Making Things Up”  
 University of Barcelona, October 2011  
 University of Mississippi, November 2011

“By Our Bootstraps”  
 CUNY Graduate Center, September 2011  
 University of Memphis, November 2011  
 University of Kentucky, March 2012  
 University of Wisconsin at Madison, March 2012

Comments on Amie Thomasson’s “Modal Normativism: We Can Work it Out”  
 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapel Hill Colloquium, November 2011

“Naturalism and Fundamentality”  
 Arché Conference on naturalism in metaphysics, October 2011

“Kripke’s Paradox”  
 Conference at CUNY Graduate Center celebrating the publication of Kripke’s  
*Philosophical Troubles*, September 2011

“Building and Causing”  
 Stanford University, April 2011  
 University of Rochester, April 2011  
 University of Missouri, March 2011  
 USC, February 2011  
 MIT, February 2011  
 NYU, October 2010  
 Rutgers, October 2010  
 NC State, October 2010  
 University of Massachusetts, November 2010

“How Philosophers Think about the Meaning of Life”  
 Public lecture at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, March 2011

Reply to Robert Brandom’s “Modal Expressivism and Modal Realism”  
 NYU Issues in Modern Philosophy Conference, November 2011

“Construction Area: No Hard Hat Required”  
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2010

“Flavors of Fundamentality”  
 Invited paper at RSSS Fundamentality Conference, ANU, July 2010

“Fundamentality”  
 Full day seminar-style presentation at the Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University,  
 May 2010

“How Philosophers Think about the Meaning of Life”  
 Invited public lecture at the One Day University, April 2010

“Of Motorcycles and Mereology”  
 Author-meets-critics session on Kathrin Koslicki’s *The Structure of Objects*, Pacific  
 APA, March 2010

“The Ordinary and the Fundamental”  
 Invited paper at Ordinary Objects Conference, Auburn University, February 2010

“Putting Things Together”  
 Perspectives on Ontology Conference, University of Leeds, UK, September 2008  
 Keynote Address to Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference, March 2009  
 Indiana University, March 2009  
 Notre Dame University, March 2009  
 Brown University, September 2009  
 University of Konstanz, November 2009

“Construction Area: No Hard Hat Required”  
 Invited symposium on ontological emergence, Central APA, February 2009  
 Mellon Metaphysics Workshop, May 2009

“Thomasson’s *Ordinary Objects*”  
 Author meets critics session, Eastern APA, December 2008

Comments on Jonathan Schaffer’s “The Internal Relatedness of All Things”  
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2008

“Metametaphysics”  
 Invited symposium, Eidos group, University of Geneva, Switzerland, July 2008  
 Invited symposium, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, March 2008

“Maybe Sometime”  
 University of Toronto, February 2008  
 Jowett Society, Oxford University, October 2007  
 Syracuse University, November 2007

“New Thoughts on Mental Causation”  
 Syracuse Mental Causation Workshop, December 2007

“Eternalist Actualism”  
 Keynote address at the University of Texas Graduate Conference, April 2007

Comments on Michael Nelson’s “The Contingency of Existence”  
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, April 2007

Comments on Thomas Hofweber’s “Ontology as a Philosopher’s Project”  
 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2007

“Two Causal –isms”  
 NYU Causation Conference, La Pietra, Italy, June 2006

Comments on Eric Hiddleston’s “The Reductivist’s Troubles with Mental Causation”  
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, March 2006

“Why I am Not a Dualist”  
 Mt. Holyoke College, April 2007  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 2007  
 Cornell University, December 2006  
 University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, December 2006  
 University of Utah, November 2006

Metaphysics of Science Workshop, Birmingham, UK, June 2006  
 UC Vermont, April 2006  
 UC Davis, April 2006  
 Columbia University, March 2006  
 Harvard University, October 2005  
 University of Pennsylvania, November 2005  
 Brown University, December 2005  
 Australasian Association of Philosophy Meetings, July 2005  
 “Exclusion Again”  
     Reed College, February 2006  
 Comments on Cian Dorr’s “Numbers and Electrons”  
     Eastern APA, December 2005  
 “Composition, Coincidence, and Metaontology”  
     University of Colorado at Boulder, December 2006  
     Ohio State University, October 2006  
     Washington University in St. Louis, October 2006  
     Arizona Ontology Conference, Tucson, January 2006  
     Metametaphysics Conference, ANU, July 2005  
     CUNY Graduate Center, February 2005  
     Oberlin College, February 2005  
 NYU Mind and Language Seminar, April 2005  
 Invited symposium on metaontology, with Stephen Yablo and Eli Hirsch  
     Eastern APA, Dec. 2004  
 “Metametaphysics”  
     University of Melbourne, October 2004  
 “Exclusion Again”  
     Conference on ‘Descrying the World in Physics’, Rutgers, April 2005  
     Australasian Association of Philosophy Meeting, July 2004  
     Macquarie University Mental Causation Workshop, September 2004  
 Comments on Carolina Sartorio’s “On Causing Something to Happen in a Certain Way  
 without Causing it to Happen”  
     Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2004  
 “Exclusion Again: Poison Pills and Placebos”  
     NAMICONA conference on Mental Causation, Aarhus University (Denmark), May 2004  
 “Metametaphysics” (early version)  
     Brown University, March 2004  
 Invited symposium on Michael Jubien’s “Analyzing Modality”  
     Pacific APA, March 2004  
 Comments on Dean Zimmerman’s “Presentism and a Timelessly Eternal Deity”  
     Keynote session, New Jersey Regional Philosophy Conference, November 2003  
 “Two Axes of Actualism”  
     MIT, October 2003  
     Keynote Address at Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Student Conference, April 2003  
     Monash University, April 2002  
 Response to Jessica Wilson’s “The Many in One Problem”  
     Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2002:

“How Not to Be an Actualist”

RSSS, Australian National University, February 2002

“Why the Exclusion Problem Seems Intractable, and How, Just Maybe, to Tract It”

New York University, April 2001

“Token Dualism and Causal Competition (or, Mental Causation Yet Again)”

Metaphysical Mayhem V, August 2000

“On Differing Modally”

Cornell University, Stanford University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Florida at Gainesville, Pomona College, The University of Southern California, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Arizona State University, Jan-Feb 2000.

Comments on Robert Allen’s “The Necessity of Identity”

APA Central Division Meeting, May 1999

Response to Jaegwon Kim’s “What is Naturalism?”

16th Annual University of Michigan Spring Colloquium, March 1997

### Courses Taught

Undergraduate: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Metaphysics, Intermediate Metaphysics, Freshman Writing Seminar: Philosophy Through Science Fiction, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy and Everyday Life, undergraduate seminars on causation and constitution

Graduate: seminars on determination, fundamentality, mereology and priority, metametaphysics, objects, modality, metaphysics of mind, contemporary dualisms

### Ph.D. students (post-coursework students only; either chair or minor member)

At Cornell:

In progress: Zeyu Chi, Dean Davee, Fran Fairbairn, Augie Faller, Vivek Mathew, Chad McIntosh, Matt Paskell, Rob Wesley

Nate Meyvis, defended April 2017

David Kovacs, defended May 2016

Andrea Viggiano, defended July 2016

Daniel Murphy, defended July 2015

Eric Rowe, defended July 2015

Ian McKay, defended August 2014

Stephen Mahaffey, defended December 2013

Zachary Abrahams, defended October 2012

At Princeton:

Paul Audi, 2007.

Colin Klein, 2006.

Stephan Leuenberger, 2006.

### Honors and Awards:

Robert and Helen Appel Fellowship for Humanists and Social Scientists (Cornell), 2008  
For excellence in both teaching and research.

John Dewey Prize, 2000

For excellence in undergraduate teaching in the Michigan Philosophy Department  
Graduate Student Mentor, 1999-2000

In charge of training first-time teaching assistants in the Michigan Philosophy Dept.  
Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1997-1998

University-wide competition  
Charles Stevenson Award, 1997

Awarded annually for the best candidacy dossier submitted to the Michigan Phil. Dept.  
Mellon Fellowship, 1997

Marshall Weinberg Summer Fellowship, 1996

#### Service to the Cornell Philosophy Department

2017-2018: Placement Director and Search Committee Chair

Graduate admissions, spring 2017

Placement director, Cornell University, 2008-2010, 2017-?

The usual slate of departmental committee work, including hiring and graduate admissions, etc.

Editor-in-chief of *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-16

One of three editors of *The Philosophical Review*, January 2013-2016.

Organized Boyd-Sturgeon retirement conference, September 2012

Organized Mellon Metaphysics Workshop at Cornell, 2009 and 2012

#### Service to Cornell University:

University Appeals Panel (appointed by President David Skorton), 2013-present

Academic Records Committee (appointed), 2013-present

Dean's Advisory Committee on Appointments (elected), 2011-2014; 2017-2020

House fellow, Hans Bethe House, 2011-

#### Service to the Profession:

Co-editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*

Editor-in-chief of *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-16

One of three editors of *The Philosophical Review*, January 2013-2016.

Editorial Board, *Philosophical Studies*, 2005-present

Program Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA, 2017-2019

Served as mentor for Athena in Action, a workshop to assist female graduate students  
profession-wide (2015)

Served on an external review committee for the Department of Philosophy at the University  
of Miami (2015)

Nominating Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA (elected), 2013-2015

Referee for *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Mind and Language*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*,  
*The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*,  
*The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Monist*, Oxford  
University Press, Routledge, Princeton University Press, Continuum Press, Acumen  
Press.

Advisory Committee to APA Eastern Division Program Committee (Metaphysics), 2007-  
2010

Program Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, 2006; guest  
co-editor of resulting issue of *Philosophical Studies*